



**STATE OF VERMONT  
Department of Education  
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### **Vermont NECAP Assessment Results Released**

**MONTPELIER** – Statewide assessment results for Fall 2005 were released by the Vermont Department of Education today. The results are the first ever of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) exams, given to Vermont public school students in grades three through eight. Students were tested in reading and mathematics in all six grades, and in writing at grades five and eight only.

Sixty-seven percent of Vermont students tested were proficient or higher in reading. In mathematics, 63 percent of Vermont students were proficient or higher. In writing, 53 percent of students tested were proficient or higher.

As seen in previous years statewide and nationally, an achievement gap persists between boys and girls, and between students from low-income families and their peers. In reading, girls outperform boys 72 percent to 62 percent. In writing, that gap widens to 64 percent versus 41 percent. In mathematics, the gap essentially disappears, with 63 percent of male students and 64 percent of female students demonstrating proficiency.

Students eligible for free and/or reduced lunch are not learning at the same rate as their peers. In reading, only 49 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 74 percent of their peers. In mathematics, 45 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 70 percent of their peers. In writing, 36 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 59 percent of their peers.

The NECAP exams were created in collaboration with Rhode Island and New Hampshire. These exams are designed to specifically assess how well Vermont students have learned the skills and content contained in the *Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities*. The fall NECAP exam replaces the annual spring testing of students on the New Standards Reference Exams (NSRE). Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are currently taking the spring NSREs, the results of which will be available in the fall. The current plan is for high school students to take a new state assessment in Fall 2007.

For school reports, visit

[http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_assessment/data.html#summary](http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#summary).

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